

Toxic Soup or Not? - *Hurricane Katrina Through the Lens of Environmental Health Preparedness*

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast

Thursday, December 15, 2005 • 12:00–1:30 p.m. (Central Time)

1:00-2:30 p.m. (Eastern) • 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Mountain) • 10:00-11:30 a.m. (Pacific)

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In the days and weeks after Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters overwhelmed the city of New Orleans and much of the Gulf Coast, the pressing question from the local and national public was whether or not New Orleans was safe – safe to return to, safe to work in, safe to live in. As recovery and reconstruction efforts continue, it has become increasingly clear that today's traditional environmental health policies, practices and science alone do not sufficiently allow for the innovation, flexibility and expediency needed to address the multi-faceted environmental health issues related to Hurricane Katrina. Environmental health preparedness in the Post-Katrina era points to a just-in-time and just-in-case modus operandi bolstered by new and recalibrated tools, procedures and policies.

This presentation seeks to answer key questions in an effort to inform a new level of environmental public health preparedness that goes beyond the business-as-usual approach and adopts the dexterity necessary in acute disaster situations.

- What are the triggers for shifting gears and changing public health policies and procedures in the event of an emergency?
- On a continuum of care between anticipating and developing contingency plans for every possible scenario, and rigid adherence to codes, methods and policies established to protect health in the status quo, where should environmental public health fall?
- How can we build on today's environmental health methods, to strengthen the capacity of environmental public health in disasters?
- What roles do risk perception and risk communication play in assuring timely and accurate dissemination of health information to the public?

Program Objectives:

1. Name the challenges posed by Hurricane Katrina to the traditional environmental public health "toolbox."
2. List opportunities for action to strengthen environmental public health preparedness.
3. Describe the roles of risk perception and risk communication in a disaster situation.

Conference Details:

Target Audience: Environmental health and public health professionals, first responders and recovery workers, emergency managers and policy makers.

Registration: www.adph.org/alphn CEUs: None. Cost: There is no cost to view.

Satellite Technical Information: This program will be a live satellite broadcast on both Ku & C bands.

Webcast Information: Please register at www.adph.org/alphn To view this live webcast, you will need RealPlayer or Windows Media Player. This program will also be available as an on-demand webcast approximately 2 days after the live broadcast.

Conference Materials: Posted on our website before the program.

Questions For Faculty: If you have questions that you want addressed during the conference, you may fax or email those questions and a response will be given during the program. Email: alphnquestions@adph.state.al.us or Fax: 888-737-1972.

General Questions: If you have questions about any of these conference details, call 334-206-5618 or email alphn@adph.state.al.us